

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 046658
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SP-02 PM-05 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 PA-02 JUSE-00 SY-05
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DRAFTED BY ARA/P:WJDIETERICH:BGT
APPROVED BY ARA:FJ MC NEIL
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 046658

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN, CI

SUBJECT: LETELIER ASSASSINATION CASE

FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR USE FEB. 22.

Q: CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT A REQUEST FOR TESTIMONY FROM
CERTAIN CHILEAN MILITARY OFFICERS IN RELATION TO THE
LETELIER-MOFFITT MURDER CASE HAS BEEN SENT TO THE
CHILEAN GOVERNMENT?

A: YES. THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IN WASHINGTON HAS
SENT SUCH A REQUEST THROUGH THE FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT
HERE TO THE CHILEAN SUPREME COURT. THESE REQUESTS ARE
REFERRED TO AS "LETTERS ROGATORY" OR AS A REQUEST FOR
INTERNATIONAL JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE, AND ARE TRANSMITTED
THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. THE DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN
DISPATCHED TO SANTIAGO FOR DELIVERY BY OUR EMBASSY TO
THE CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. WE TRUST THAT THE CHILEAN
GOVERNMENT WILL COOPERATE ON THIS MATTER.

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Q: DOES THIS MEAN WE THINK THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT WAS
INVOLVED IN THE LETELIER ASSASSINATION?

A: THE FACT OF THE SENDING OF THIS REQUEST OBVIOUSLY

DOES NOT IMPLY ANY PRESUMPTION OF GUILT. WE CANNOT

COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INVESTIGATION. IT IS A JUDICIAL MATTER. YOU SHOULD DIRECT YOUR QUESTIONS ON THE SUBSTANCE TO THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

Q: CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE IMPACT OF THIS MATTER ON OUR RELATIONS WITH CHILE?

A: I HAVE SAID THAT WE TRUST THAT THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE HELPFUL IN THIS MATTER. I HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENT.

Q: WAS THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT GIVEN ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE REQUEST?

A: YES. DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER INVITED THE CHILEAN AMBASSADOR, JORGE CAUAS, TO SEE HIM LAST FRIDAY AFTERNOON, AND A COPY OF THE COVERING REQUEST LETTER FROM THE DISTRICT COURT WAS GIVEN TO HIM. AT THE SAME TIME, OUR AMBASSADOR IN SANTIAGO, GEORGE LANDAU, CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL WITH THE SAME INFORMATION.

Q: WHAT WERE THE PREVIOUS "OTHER DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS" REFERRED TO IN PRESS REPORTS?

A: NO COMMENT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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